

DC Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 18, 2001, 6:30 pm
2nd Floor Community Room, Reeves Center

MINUTES

Rudi Schreiber opened the meeting by introducing Carol Schwartz, DC Councilmember and Chair of the Committee on Public Works and the Environment.

Ms. Schwartz made some opening remarks emphasizing her commitment to bicycle transportation and safety in the District. She introduced each member of the Bicycle Advisory Council and conducted a swearing in of the members.

Jim Sebastian gave a 15-minute presentation on the plans for bicycling in the District including bicycle parking, bicycle lanes, the Metropolitan Branch Trail and other priorities outlined by the mayor in November of 2000.

Mr. Schreiber kicked off a discussion of BAC logistics. The first matter determined was whether to stagger terms to ensure continuity of membership. The Council decided on staggered terms and drew lots to determine which citizen members would serve to how long. The results are as follows:

Amy Nevel:	2 years
Chris Craig:	1 year
Conrad Smith:	1 year
Dan Barry:	2 years
Densie D'Amore:	1 year
Harry Jaffe:	3 years
Jacque Patterson	2 years
James Koski	3 years
Lisa Martin	2 years
Meedie Bardonille	1 year
Raymon Murchison	3 years
Rudi Schreiber	3 years
William Schulteiss	2 years

The government members will serve indefinitely as representatives of their agencies.

Mr. Sebastian pointed out that members whose terms expire may be reappointed by the Council.

The next issue under discussion was when and how often to meet. After discussing several options, Meedie Bardonille offered a motion to meet bi-monthly (every other month) at 6 pm, on the first Wednesday of each month. The Council approved this motion.

The Council took up the issue of by-laws. In the absence of by-laws, the Council agreed to operate under Roberts Rules of Order. Mr. Schreiber and offered as a model the bylaws for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Council. Mr. Schreiber, Dan Barry and Meedie Bardonille agreed to serve on a bylaws subcommittee and to bring a set of draft bylaws to the next meeting.

Someone asked whether a web site would post meeting information. Mr. Sebastian said yes, as soon as the times and dates are determined. The web site is www.ddot.dc.gov. The Bicycle Program page is part of this DDOT site.

Someone asked whether one would be able to contact BAC members via email through the site. Ms. Bardonille said she would rather not give out her email to the large audience on the web. Mr. Sebastian agreed to look into whether a person could send emails from the web site to members without knowing the member's email address.

Harry Jaffe asked whether bicycle messengers should be involved in the Council. Mr. Sebastian noted that BAC member Lisa Martin is a former courier and that the DC Bicycle Courier Association indicated that Lisa could represent courier interests.

The group discussed other possible additions to the Bicycle Advisory Council, such as WMATA and the National Park Service. The Council agreed to consider adding new members as appropriate. Raymon Murchison and others warned against the group becoming too big or heavy with government members.

Members began a discussion of the goals for the BAC and bicycling in general in the city. Harry Jaffe called for trails and routes connecting different sections of the city. Meedie Bardonille, a nurse who sees many head injuries, said she favors a helmet law for all ages. Lt. Pat Burke stressed the importance of safety education for bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians. Amy Nevel emphasized the need to educate motorists.

Amy Nevel and Harry Jaffe asked on what issues 'the Mayor' needs advice, referring to the BAC's enabling legislation. Mr. Sebastian said the update of the bike plan was probably the number one issue. He also asked that the Council provide a kind of 'reality check' for him to ensure that we are focusing on the right issues and projects. Mr. Jaffe suggested the BAC could help set priorities for bike lane locations. Mr. Sebastian said this would be good.

Bob Patten suggested organizing bicycle tours of each ward. They could include BAC members, appropriate government staff, key community members, and the City Council member.

Ted Pochter urged close cooperation with the Recreational Trails Advisory Committee, which has many overlapping interests.

Raymon Murchison called for exploring better connections to the city for residents east of the Anacostia River.

Amy Nevel asked for more information at future meetings about the bicycle program such as the budget. Mr. Sebastian offered to provide more information.

Mr. Murchison suggested that we should promote bicycling as a way to improve the health and fitness of District residents and that we should look for funding from health agencies.

Carl Williams stressed the importance of maintaining streets, trails and sidewalks.

The BAC discussed the agenda for the next meeting. Suggested topics were goals and bylaws for the Council, goals for 2002 specifically, the bike plan update, and recommended additions or changes to the BAC.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40.